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offensive declaration was, that if any Catholic should come before him and swear that he thought his life or his property were endangered by that paper, he would lay the person who had posted it in Down Jail, to answer for his conduct.

In relation to the petition against illegal associations, most sincerely do I wish that the English Members were convinced that no nation on earth is more attached to, or more sensible of the invaluable benefit of equal laws impartially administered, than the sons of Erin."

*To the Rev. P. M. Cumming, Chairman
of the Meeting of the Parishioners of Bal-
lee, assembled on Monday, Oct. 11, 1813.*

SIR,
Nov. 1, 1813.

Not being a subscriber to either of the Belfast Newspapers, it was only yesterday that I read the publication of the above-mentioned Resolutions; the tenor of which is the cause of my addressing you, in defence of myself, and the other subscribers to the petition to parliament adopted at Killileagh, September 5, 1815, which is the object of your strictures.

The processions of Orangemen had been discontinued at Killileagh, and domestic harmony seemed to revive, when this year they were recommenced. In last July there was not a gun or a pistol in the town, which had not been bespoke for the occasion. And though no murder ensued, there were leading men of that party, whose boisterous behaviour seemed to court outrage; when no doubt those arms would have been employed in defence of the decorations and party insignia of their insulting parade.

The persons who adopted this petition evinced perhaps too great a degree of moderation when they omitted several parts of the petition of their brethren of Belfast, who were smarting under the recent transactions in that town; and had been prevented by power and influence, from meeting to devise the means of protecting themselves from a repetition of such outrages; while their respected fellow-citizen, Mr. R. Tennent, is suffering fine and imprisonment for having advocated their cause.

You declare your determination to defeat all circular publications, as tending

to irritate the public mind; and you particularize the Petition adopted at Killileagh, as being of that description, and that it was presented for signature at Ballee.

The Petition you allude to, was never removed out of the town of Killileagh; and only for a few hours out of the private house where it lay for signature. It could never, therefore, have been presented for signature at Ballee, as your resolution gives to understand. It was signed in the broad day, and lest its contents should be disremembered by the subscriber, or misrepresented by others, most of those who signed it (near 700 persons, of which number many were inhabitants of Ballee,) were furnished with a printed copy. This, in my opinion, could not properly be termed "*intruding upon your domestic peace, or impertinent intrusion on your "domestic peace and local tranquillity."*"

The subscribers to the Petition adopted at Killileagh, hold in equal abhorrence with you, all conduct which seems "only calculated to create hatred and dissension among neighbours." They look upon the processions of Orangemen to be decidedly, and intentionally of that description, and therefore pray that they may be prevented in future.

You condemn all circular publications, and of course look upon those which have the greatest publicity as the most injurious. I have described the only degree of circulation given to our petition, while you give the greatest currency you can to your strictures, by publishing them in all the Belfast newspapers, while your language "*impertinent, intrusive, busy agitators, &c.*" are evident marks of men being in these matters as you justly observe, "*more generally swayed by their passions than by reason.*"

We agree with you in the sentiment of not allowing "*plausible pretence,*" or "*imposing words*" to be a cloak for any conduct tending to create "*hatred and dissension among neighbours;*" we therefore cry out against the processions of Orangemen; whose *plausible pretence* is an anxiety for our constitution, and whose *imposing terms* are, the glorious revolution of the great King William.

You resolve "that you place unlimited confidence in the wisdom and goodness of the Legislature." So do the Killileagh petitioners; but they think it to be their duty to inform its wisdom, while they rely on its goodness, and obey

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its decisions. And in this they can not help contrasting their conduct with that of the Orange Societies, whose oath or obligation as published by authority, says, So help me God I will support George the Third, so long as he shall support the Protestant Ascendancy. Thus, as the Belfast petition justly observes, anticipating rebellion.

A SUBSCRIBER TO KILLIEAGH PETITION.
October 31st, 1813.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

In your report of the Trial of Mr. R. Tennent, at Antrim Sessions, I think a part of my evidence on cross examination is not candidly given, viz: "Witness would give up his own opinion to Mr. May and Mr. Verner." If your reporter had stated the questions which led to such an answer from me, perhaps you would not have marked it in *Italics*. Towards the close of my cross-examination, I was

asked did Mr. Tennent pass before or behind Mr. Verner, on his approaching Mr. May? I answered behind. Immediately on giving this answer, I began to fear it was erroneous, and on Counsel asking me if four or five persons had sworn Mr. Tennent advanced before Mr. Verner to Mr. May, would I not think myself more likely to be mistaken than them? To which I replied, that I would give up my opinion of that matter to them.

This, I feel confident, is *the substance*, and to the best of my recollection, the words of these two questions and answers. I might have used more appropriate words in my answer, but on such occasions, a witness cannot always adopt the most suitable; it would have been better if I had said, that on recollection, I believed I was mistaken, in saying Mr. Tennent passed behind Mr. Verner to Mr. May. If you notice this matter in your next Magazine, please do it in whatever way appears to you most proper. I am, Sirs, your most obedient servant,

JOHN S. FERGUSON.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The exultations carried to the very verge of extravagance on the late victories over the French in Germany, have produced a full share of the general effect on the mercantile world, and as large a degree of intoxication in them, as in any other part of the community. The cautious man will ponder before he lets in a full tide of joy, and will hesitate before he pronounces trade to be yet secure from the vicissitudes of war, and may fear another revolution of the wheel may disappoint hopes, now raised to so very high degree. Sugar and other colonial produce have risen, in consequence of a renewal of the European continental market, as have also cottons, and other branches of manufacture suited to the expected demand. But although the market of the continent of Europe may be gained, yet a great part of the benefit is lost by the rupture with the United States of America, as cotton wool, and flaxseed, and other prime articles in manufactures, were imported in large quantities from America. Hence the cup is mixed, and war still infuses some poisonous ingredients. It is difficult to calculate on the alterations in trade, which the present change in the state of the war may produce. Speculation is busy in almost every line, and much money will be gained, as well as lost on the occasion. The Dutch always alive to their mercantile interests, have already sent a number of vessels to London with butter and bacon.

Another drawback to future prosperity in trade, arises from manufactures having advanced so rapidly in America, as to rival the British, since the indirect commencement of the quarrel with that country in 1808, so that even peace will not restore as extensive a command of that market, as was formerly enjoyed.

The attempt to restrain, through legislative interference, the artifices practised at mock auctions in London and various parts of England, prove the straits to which trade is reduced, and exhibit the dishonourable shifts to which recourse is had, as a partial and inadequate remedy for the evils of the war, by those who feel its pressure, and are not restrained by a sense of honour from evading their share of the distress, but to indemnify themselves, encroach on their neighbours by sham and fraudulent auctions.

It must be acknowledged, that trade has been in a most irregular, uncomfortable state for many years, and that the various classes of the community have been engaged in a toil-